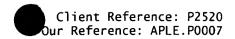
## **CLAIMS**

I claim:

- 1 1. A method for automatically mounting a plurality of
- 2 remote volumes to a client, comprising:
- 3 requesting of a first server said mounting of said volumes;
- 4 returning by said first server a set of mounting parameters;
- 5 and
- 6 automatically mounting said plurality of volumes utilizing
- 7 said returned parameters, said parameters, said volumes located
- 8 remote to said client, said volumes after mounting behaving as
- 9 would a volume native to said client.
- 1 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said requesting
- 2 includes:
- 3 authenticating said client by said first server via an interface
- 4 to said first server, said client authentication characterized by
- 5 a login identification (ID).
- 1 3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said
- 2 authenticating includes:
- 3 supplying by the client said login ID and a password intended for
- 4 said login ID.



- 1 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein said
- 2 authenticating further includes:
- 3 comparing said supplied password and said login ID with a
- 4 stored password on said first server associated with said login
- 5 ID; and
- 6 if said stored password matches said supplied password for said
- 7 login ID, then characterizing said client as successfully
- 8 authenticated with said login ID.
- 1 5. A method according to claim 1 that further includes:
- 2 detecting the presence of a cookie on said client, said
- 3 cookie indicating by its presence that said client has installed
- 4 a plug-in module; and
- 5 if said cookie is not detected, terminating any said volume
- 6 mounting.
- 1 6. A method according to claim 4 wherein said returning
- 2 includes:
- 3 if successfully authenticated, retrieving said parameters
- 4 from a profile datastore on said first server, said parameters
- 5 indexed therein by said login ID; and
- 6 assembling a mounting command block, said command block
- 7 consisting of a mount command and said retrieved parameters.

- 1 7. A method according to claim 1 wherein said requesting
- 2 is initiated by an event occurring on said client requiring said
- 3 mounting.
- 1 8. A method according to claim 7 wherein said returning
- 2 includes:
- 3 retrieving said parameters from a profile datastore on said
- 4 first server, said parameters indexed therein by an identifier
- 5 for said event; and
- 6 assembling a mounting command block, said command block
- 7 consisting of a mount command and said retrieved parameters.
- 9. A method according to claim 1 wherein said first server
- 2 returns said parameters via a plug-in module installed on said
- 3 client.
- 1 10. A method according to claim 9 wherein automatically
- 2 mounting includes:
- 3 obtaining an address for said first server;
- 4 comparing said address for said first server against a
- 5 built-in list of approved servers; and
- 6 if said address is not contained on said built-in list, then
- 7 terminating the process of automatically mounting.

- 1 11. A method according to claim 10 further wherein if said
- 2 address is contained on said built-in list, then:
- 3 passing of said parameters by said plug-in to an application
- 4 programming interface (API) of said client; and
- 5 completing the mounting of said volume by said API, said
- 6 mounting achieved absent of user intervention.
- 1 12. A method according to claim 1 wherein said remote
- 2 interface is an Hypertext Transport Protocol capable browser.
- 1 13. A method according to claim 1 wherein said parameters
- 2 include, for each of said volumes, a volume name, a server alias,
- 3 a volume username and volume password.
- 1 14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said server
- 2 alias is resolved to an address of a second server, said second
- 3 server housing the volume identified by the corresponding said
- 4 volume name.
- 1 15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said address of
- 2 said second server is an Internet Protocol (IP) address.
- 1 16. A method according to claim 14 wherein said resolving
- 2 is achieved by:





- 3 looking up said server alias in a mapping table; and
- 4 retrieving from said look up said address of said server
- 5 from said mapping table.
- 1 17. A method according to claim 6 wherein said mounting
- 2 command block is contained in an extensible markup language (XML)
- 3 document.
- 1 18. A method according to claim 8 wherein said mounting
- 2 command block is contained in an extensible markup language (XML)
- 3 document.

- 1 19. A system for mounting volumes over a network, said
- 2 system comprising:
- 3 a client configured to request said mounting; and
- 4 a server coupled to said client said server configured to
- 5 return a mounting command block to said client.
- 1 20. A system according to claim 19 further comprising:
- 2 a plug-in installed in said client, said plug-in configured
- 3 to approve the address of said server.
- 1 21. A system according to claim 20 further comprising:



- 2 an application programming interface (API) coupled to said
- 3 plug-in and configured to automatically mount said volumes
- 4 specified in said mounting command block, said mounting performed
- 5 without the need for user intervention.
- 1 22. An article comprising a computer readable medium having
- 2 instructions stored thereon which when executed cause
- 3 automatically mounting a plurality of volumes to a client, said
- 4 instructions performing:
- 5 requesting of a first server said mounting of said volumes;
- 6 returning by said first server a set of mounting parameters;
- 7 and
- 8 automatically mounting said plurality of volumes utilizing
- 9 said returned parameters, said parameters, said volumes located
- 10 remote to said client, said volumes after mounting behaving as
- 11 would a volume native to said client, said mounting performed
- 12 without the need for user intervention.
  - 1 23. In a computer system having a processor and memory, an
  - 2 apparatus for automatically mounting a plurality of remote
  - 3 volumes to said computer system, said apparatus comprising:
  - 4 a plug-in module configured to receive from a server a
  - 5 mounting command block, said mounting command block to include
  - 6 volume mounting parameters; and
  - 7 an application programming interface coupled to said plug-
  - 8 in and configured to automatically mount said volumes specified



- 9 in said mounting command block, said mounting performed without
- 10 the need for user intervention.
- 1 24. An apparatus for automatically mounting a plurality of
- volumes to a client, said apparatus comprising:
- 3 means for requesting of a first server said mounting of said
- 4 volumes;

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- 5 means for returning by said first server a set of mounting
- 6 parameters; and
- 7 means for automatically mounting said plurality of volumes
- 8 utilizing said returned parameters, said parameters, said
- 9 volumes located remote to said client, said volumes after
- 10 mounting behaving as would a volume native to said client, said
- 11 mounting performed without the need for user intervention.